

# **Gaa-Noodin-Oke**

## **Minnesota Tribal Coalition Tribal Utility Capacity Building Project :**

White Earth Reservation Tribal Council

Grand portage Reservation Tribal Council

Leech Lake Reservation Tribal Council

Intertribal Council on Utility Policy

White Earth Land Recovery Project

The Grand Portage, Leech Lake  
and White Earth reservations  
seek to build a common  
foundation for strategic energy  
resource and utility planning  
capacity by banding together.

# The effort will focus primarily on the following four inter-related areas:

- **EDUCATION:** Raising community awareness about energy issues through the distribution of basic educational materials and focused outreach activities aimed at facility managers.
- **ASSESSMENT:** The identification and assessment of the basic on-reservation energy flow and consumption patterns, and the potential for energy policy development on issues of conservation, energy efficiency and application of renewable energy resources.
- **STRATEGIC PLAN:** The development of an overall tribal energy “vision” and outlining long-term strategic energy plans, including a statement, and goals and objectives, which may be tailored to the needs and resources of each reservation.
- **MODEL DOCUMENTS:** The development of model organizational documents, such as tribal codes and policies, to promote the formation of tribal utility institutions (offices, commissions, authorities) to better serve on-reservation loads and members.

# **Tribal Structure, Location and Demographics.**

# WHITE EARTH

- Over 837,000 acres of land located in northwestern Minnesota (Mahnomen, Becker and Clearwater counties) reserved under the 1867 treaty.
- Enrolled tribal membership is over 20,000.
- On-reservation unemployment rate is almost 25%, with per capita income of \$5,000.
- The reservation was selected by our ancestors because it had the biodiversity and spiritual significance to provide for the future seven generations of our people.
- Today, 76,347 acres or about 9%, of the original land base is held by our people, as the White Earth Tribe.

# GRAND PORTAGE

- Comprised of some 56,000 acres
- Approximately 95% tribally owned, and over 7,000 acres allotted.
- Located at Minnesota's most northeasterly point along Lake Superior in Cook County, MN.
- Total Tribal enrollment exceeds 1,098 members with 35% in residence, with
- Per capita income of about \$16,000
- Unemployment is at 10%.

# LEECH LAKE

- The reservation is comprised of almost 603,000 acres.
- Slightly over 10% is held in trust, with approximately 5% in tribal control, located in north central Minnesota (Beltrami, Cass, Hubbard and Itasca counties).
- Over 7,000 enrolled members, with half residing on the reservation.
- where unemployment exceeds 30% and the per capita income is under \$5,000.

# Supporting Organizations

Background Information



# White Earth Land Recovery Project

- Largest reservation based non-profit organization in the state of Minnesota.
- Founded in 1989 with the mission of recovering the original land base of the White Earth Indian Reservation.
- Cultural preservation through language fluency and environmental and economic justice initiatives.
- Wind development work a product of this mission; recent successes include hoisting a Jacobs 20 kW tower on Diana King's property on the reservation.

# Intertribal Council On Utility Policy

- The Intertribal Council on Utility Policy (Intertribal COUP) is composed of federally recognized Indian tribes in North and South Dakota and affiliates in the northern Great Plains.
- Organized in 1994, headquartered on the Rosebud Sioux Reservation.
- Provides a tribal forum for policy issues dealing especially with energy utility operations and services.
- Intertribal COUP is a leader in helping Tribes identify both energy consumption patterns and renewable energy potentials.

# UMN-NMSDP

- Northeast Minnesota Sustainable Development Partnership (NMSDP) is one of five Regional Partnerships funded by Minnesota Legislature through the University.
- NMSDP facilitates sustainable development in northeastern Minnesota by identifying and supporting targeted research and education projects and by developing networks of cooperation.

# **University of Minnesota-Duluth's Center for Sustainable Community Development (CSCD).**

- Directed by Dr. Michael Mageau who will be collaborating with the Gaa-Noodin-Oke consortium.
- The mission of the CSCD is to help communities transition from global dependence toward community self-reliance.
- This is achieved by designing and implementing economically attractive, as well as socially and environmentally sustainable, localized systems for meeting basic socioeconomic community needs.
- This mission is carried out using a three-part strategy integrating research, community implementation and education.
- The CSCD is currently involved in designing renewable energy systems for several Minnesota Communities.